

REMARKS

Claims 1-50 are pending in this application.

Claims 1, 18 and 35 are independent claims.

AMENDMENTS

Specification

Editorial changes have been made to the specification.

Claims

The claims have been amended for editorial reasons to be more consistent with U. S. practice.

Abstract

A new Abstract has been provided, which is more consistent with U. S. practice.

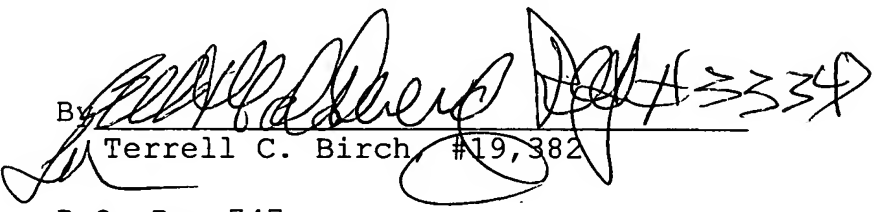
Conclusion

Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Elliot A. Goldberg (Reg. No. 33,347) at the telephone number of the undersigned below, to conduct an interview in an effort to expedite prosecution in connection with the present application.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 or 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

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1248-0702P

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Attachment(s): Abstract of the Disclosure